

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00
EB-08 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06
AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15
SIG-03 H-01 /140 R

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R 090315Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL OECD CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, PORG, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: US VISIT OF UNCTAD SYG COREA: ADDITIONAL HIGH-
LIGHTS AND POLITICAL OBSERVATIONS

REF: STATE 48583

1. SUMMARY. DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 14-16, UNCTAD SYG GAMANI COREA EXPRESSED HIS INTEREST IN ATTEMPTING TO HELP BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND THE GROUP OF 77 ON THE ISSUES OF LDC DEBT AND THE COMMON FUND. (HIGHLIGHTS ON THESE ISSUES REPORTED IN REFTEL.) COREA GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE BELIEVES THAT BOTH HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE AND THAT OF UNCTAD ARE RIDING ON THE CONCLUSION OF SUCCESSFUL AGREEMENTS ON THE COMMON FUND AND TREATMENT OF LDC DEBT. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS (SENATOR JAVITS AND CONGRESSMAN FRENZEL) AND OFFICIALS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH EMPHASIZED THAT WHATEVER STEPS ARE TAKEN THEY MUST MUTUALLY BENEFIT THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES (IO) POINTED OUT THAT UNCTAD IS PERCEIVED IN THE US AS TENDING TO FAVOR LDC INTERESTS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. HE SUGGESTED THAT COREA ESTABLISH CLOSER LIAISON WITH THE GROUP B (OECD) COUNTRIES IN GENEVA IN AN EFFORT TO GAIN GREATER CONFIDENCE ON ALL SIDES, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE DECLINING NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN THE SENIOR LEVELS OF THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES. CONGRESSMAN FRENZEL (R. MINNESOTA) MET WITH COREA AND UNCTAD SECRETARIAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIAL ARSENSIS IN HIS CAPACITY AS MEMBER OF WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE. IN LOW-KEY, BUT VERY CLEAR FASHION, FRENZEL EXPLAINED CONCERNS OF SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON PROVIDING ALMOST ANY SORT OF SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR LDCS ON TRADE AND COMMODITY ISSUES. HIS OBSERVATIONS SUPPORTED ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS' DESCRIPTIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD G-77 TRADE AND COMMODITY PROPOSALS. FRENZEL INDICATED A CONTINUING INTEREST IN THESE ISSUES AND NOTED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON COREA WHEN HE IS NEXT IN GENEVA.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES TOLD COREA THAT IF A COMMON FUND OF THE NATURE WHICH WE HAD PROPOSED WERE AGREED TO AND WE WERE TO ASK FOR CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION TO JOIN, WE STILL HAVE TO MAKE A VERY STRONG CASE THAT IT WILL BENEFIT THE U.S. AND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MAYNES ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WE ARE HAVING PROBLEMS OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH ESTABLISHED UN INSTITUTIONS, BECAUSE OUR PRESENT CONGRESS STRONGLY PREFERS THE GREATER CONTROL OVER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE THAT IS PROVIDED BY OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS.

4. BUILDING DC CONFIDENCE IN UNCTAD. MAYNES OBSERVED THAT UNCTAD IS PERCEIVED IN THE US AS TENDING TO REPRESENT THE LDC SIDE OF THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. HE SUGGESTED THAT IN ORDER TO GAIN GREATER DEVELOPED COUNTRY CONFIDENCE COREA SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE SECRETARIAT CAREFULLY FOLLOWS THE MANDATES IT RECEIVES FROM UNCTAD INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES. HE ALSO SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KEEP AN APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF GROUP B NATIONALS IN IMPORTANT POSTS IN THE SECRETARIAT AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT U.S. REPRESENTATION IS CONTINUING TO DECLINE AT THE SENIOR LEVELS. COREA RESPONDED THAT HE IS WELL AWARE OF THE DECLINING NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN THE SECRETARIAT, BUT POINTED OUT THAT HE HAS FEW POSTS TO OFFER, SINCE UNCTAD COMPRISES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONLY 4 PERCENT OF TOTAL UN POSTS, AND CURRENTLY ONLY 30 PERCENT OF UNCTAD POSITIONS ARE STAFFED BY LDC NATIONALS. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE THE DECLINING NUMBER OF AMERICANS, THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF GROUP B NATIONALS IN THE SENIOR LEVELS OF THE SECRETARIAT. IN RESPONSE TO

A SUGGESTION FROM MAYNES, COREA SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO APPOINT A GROUP B NATIONAL IN THE SECRETARIAT TO SERVE AS A LIAISON OFFICER WITH THE PERMREPS OF GROUP B COUNTRIES IN GENEVA. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GROUP B COUNTRIES MUST FIRST REQUEST THAT SUCH A LIAISON ARRANGEMENT BE ESTABLISHED. WITH RESPECT TO MAYNES' SUGGESTION THAT THE SECRETARIAT PAY CLOSER ATTENTION TO MANDATES RECEIVED FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES, COREA SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT THE SECRETARIAT TO DO WHAT IT IS NOT ASKED TO DO, BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, HE WOULD NOT WANT TO PREVENT THE SECRETARIAT FROM COMING UP WITH NEW PROPOSALS.

5. UNCTAD V. COREA SAID THAT HE HAS NO IDEA OF WHAT ARE LIKELY TO BE THE KEY ISSUES AT THE MAY 1979 FIFTH CONFERENCE (UNCTAD V) IN MANILA SINCE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHAT PROGRESS WILL HAVE BEEN MADE BY THEN IN THE MTN, THE COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS, AND IN DEVELOPING AN AGREED APPROACH IN DEALING WITH LDC DEBT PROBLEMS. HE SUGGESTED THAT UNCTAD V MIGHT BE A "STOCKTAKING" SESSION, TO SERVE AS A FORERUNNER TO THE 1980 SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES. ALTERNATIVELY, COREA THOUGHT UNCTAD V COULD BE USED TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE ROLE OF UNCTAD ITSELF IN A RESTRUCTURED UN SYSTEM IN WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPEARS TO BE PLAYING A LARGER ROLE IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE.

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6. ACTION ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY AT THEIR DISCRETION PROVIDE AN ACCOUNT OF THE ABOVE DISCUSSIONS TO CONCERNED OFFICIALS IN THE HOST GOVERNMENT.

7. COMMENT: COREA'S VISIT WAS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. IT NOT ONLY GAVE US A BETTER INSIGHT INTO HIS CURRENT THINKING ON THE LDC DEBT AND COMMON FUND ISSUES, BUT PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OFFICIALS IN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE USG TO CONVEY TO COREA THE REALITIES AND CONSTRAINTS WHICH UNDERLIE OUR POSITION ON THESE ISSUES. ALTHOUGH COREA OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT SPEAK FOR THE G-77, HE IS EAGER TO DO WHAT HE CAN TO FACILITATE AGREEMENT ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES IN ORDER TO ENHANCE HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE AND THAT OF UNCTAD.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
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